مجلس اسلامی
Islamic Council

17 June, 1987

Mr. M. Kefi
Counsellor
Tunisian Embassy
29 Princes Gate
London SW7

Dear Mr. Kefi,

Assalamu Alaikum,

Thanks for your letter of June 16, 1987.

I appreciate your transmission of our concern about the arrests, detentions and torture of people belonging to Islamic groups to your government in Tunis. I do hope that the government will respond positively.

I beg to differ with the suggestion that the reports of persecution, and violation of human rights in Tunisia are based on rumour. Although we have our own sources of information, other organisations also, like Amnesty International, have repeatedly expressed concern about incommunicado dtentions, torture and violation of human rights in its newsletters. This organisation, as you know, is secular and independent and cannot be accused of bias. By way of example, I would invite your attention to Amnesty International's "Urgent Action" communication of April 6, 1987 (AI Index: AFR 58/05/87) . In addition, the International press also has been reporting persecution and violation of human rights over a period of many years.

I do not think one can really see what is going on in a country by paying a tourist-like visit. To be useful the visit should be planned in detail and should provide free access to detainess , their lawyers, relations, prisons, officials and official records etc. In any case, it would be useful to wait and see what is the response of the authorities in Tunisia before considering any visit.

As regards a written statement, I do not think it would be necessary as you have already conveyed our concerns to your government.